

Texas

SOURCE: Texas Administrative Code, Title 30 Environmental Quality, Part 1, Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, Chapter 307, Texas Surface Water Quality Standards, amended effective August 1, 2007, 2000, 2000, 2000 :
[http://info.sos.state.tx.us:80/pub/plsql/readtac\\$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=4&ti=30&pt=1&ch=307&rl=Y](http://info.sos.state.tx.us:80/pub/plsql/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=4&ti=30&pt=1&ch=307&rl=Y)

Rule 307.3 Definitions and Abbreviations

(a) Definitions

- (9) Biological integrity--The species composition, diversity, and functional organization of a community of organisms in an environment relatively unaffected by pollution.
- (27) Incidental fishery--A level of fishery which applies to water bodies that are not considered to have a sustainable fishery but which have an aquatic life use of limited, intermediate, high, or

exceptional.

- (45) Seagrass propagation--A water-quality-related existing use which applies to saltwater with significant stands of submerged seagrass.
- (50) Significant aquatic life use--A broad characterization of aquatic life which indicates that a subcategory of aquatic life use (limited, intermediate, high, or exceptional) is applicable. Some aquatic life is expected to be present even in water bodies which are not designated for specific categories of aquatic life use. Some provisions to protect aquatic life applies to any water body in the state whether an aquatic life use is assigned or not.

Rule 307.7 Site-specific Uses and Criteria

- (a) Aquatic life. The establishment of numerical criteria for aquatic life is highly dependent on desired use, sensitivities of usual aquatic communities, and local physical and chemical characteristics. Five subcategories of aquatic life use are established. They include limited, intermediate, high, and exceptional aquatic life and oyster waters. Aquatic life use subcategories designated for segments listed in Appendix A of §307.10 of this title recognize the natural variability of aquatic community requirements and local environmental conditions.
- (b) Appropriate uses and criteria for site-specific standards are defined as follows.
 - (3) Aquatic life. The establishment of numerical criteria for aquatic life is highly dependent on desired use, sensitivities of usual aquatic communities, and local physical and chemical characteristics. Five subcategories of aquatic life use are established. They include limited, intermediate, high, and exceptional aquatic life and oyster waters. Aquatic life use subcategories designated for segments listed in Appendix A of §307.10 of this title recognize the natural variability of aquatic community requirements and local environmental conditions.
 - (5) Additional uses. Other basic uses, such as navigation, agricultural water supply, industrial water supply, seagrass propagation, and wetland water quality functions will be maintained and protected for all water in the state in which these uses can be achieved

Table 4: Aquatic Life Subcategories (Figure: 30 TAC §307.7(b)(3)(A)(i))

Aquatic Life Use Subcategory	Dissolved Oxygen, mg/L			Aquatic Life Attributes					
	Freshwater mean/minimum	Freshwater in Spring mean/minimum	Saltwater mean/minimum	Habitat Characteristics	Species Assemblage	Sensitive Species	Diversity	Species Richness	Trophic Structure
Exceptional	6.0/4.0	6.0/5.0	5.0/4.0	Outstanding natural variability	Exceptional or unusual	Abundant	Exceptionally high	Exceptionally high	Balanced
High	5.30/3.0	5.5/4.5	4.0/3.0	Highly diverse	Usual association of regionally expected species	Present	High	High	Balanced to slightly imbalanced
Intermediate	4.0/3.0	5.0/4.0	3.0/2.0	Moderately diverse	Some expected species	Very low in abundance	Moderate	Moderate	Moderately imbalanced
Limited	3.0/2.0	4.0/3.0		Uniform	Most regionally expected species absent	Absent	Low	Low	Severely imbalanced